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## DOES IT MEAN MORMON DISFRANCHISEMENT? THE CHURCH UP AGAINST IT.

"I told you so" are not welcome words to those in trouble, but for almost a quarter of a century the writer of this has been begging the Mormon chiefs to put themselves and their Church in accord with the Government of the United States, and has repeatedly warned them of the danger they were in; telling them that if the people of the United States understood their practices and purposes, the last one of them would be disfranchised.

When the testimony delivered by the head of the church on Thursday shall be supplemented, as it surely will be, by absolute statements of the temporal and political rule which these chiefs exercise over their subjects, it will come dangerously near causing congress to disfranchise every member of the organization, for it will be made clear that this organization is a direct menace to free Government.

The fact that to gain amnesty and statehood these men, claiming to be doing God's work, deliberately made promises to the Government and people of the United States which they intended to break, and which they have shamelessly broken, the case against them will be all the stronger.

We tried to prevent Mr. Roberts from running for Congress, we besought Apostle Smoot not to press his claims for Senate, telling both that it would be the worse for them and their people, but they heeded no advice and, though it was offered in the interest of peace and the honor of Utah, they each treated it as coming from an enemy. Mr. Roberts butted his head against a stone wall. The wall did not suffer, and Mr. Smoot is not far away from that same wall. The American Government is a most sacred institution; the hope of the world, and while the American people are most patient, still if they once take up the idea that there is a purpose to build up a temporal kingdom on this evil, yox popul will come very near being vox Del.

The promise now is that the chief effort of the Smoot investigation committee will be to determine whether the Mormon church is or is not a menace to our Government, in the matter

of controlling the votes of its adherents. Apostle Smoot's answer led up to this very question, that is the real question to be decided, the real question that should be decided once for all. We all know that this dictation has been exercised a thousand times. We know that the claim of its rightfulness is under the tenet of obedience in the Mormon faith. The trouble will be to establish absolute truth of its exercise for the matter is hedged about with secrecy and will be clinched, if needs be, by direct perjury. Still we would recommend that the manner of Senator Kearn's election be brought before the committee and a showing made of how he, his absolute fitness for the place not then having been understood, drew the royal prize.

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Except for Senator Hanna's death, President Roosevelt would have had a walkover for the nomination for President. Mr. Hanna had been appealed to but he had refused; then a pressure had been put upon him to name a candidate if he would not permit his name to go before the convention, but he had set down hard upon the proposition, declaring that the President was the logical candidate, expressed the belief that he could win and said further, "If we nominate Roosevelt and fail to elect him, still we will be in good form to recover all the lost ground in 1908, while if we nominate another man and lose, there will be such contention within the party, that it may mean Democratic ascendancy for a dozen years."

So had Mr. Hanna lived there would have been a nomination by acclamation, but now so many politicians in so many states are left political orphans by the death of Mr. Hanna that they may try to unite upon a standard bearer other than the President. But they will fail; the President will get the nomination.

The Democracy are in an even worse fix. When Senator Gorman failed to defeat the Panama treaty he lost his prestige for a nomination. Now what have the Democracy left? There is Hearst, who will have the backing of Bryan, and ex-President Cleveland. Bryan is big enough to defeat Cleveland but not big enough to nominate Hearst.

There will have to be a compromise candidate. It will be someone who either cannot draw the conservative (money) crowd to him or who cannot command either the labor vote or the semi-populist vote that will again shout for Bryan, or, at Bryan's bidding, for Hearst. Neither party is now on a bed of roses. We mean the active politicians, those who make the noise and look out for plums, are not on beds of roses. Of course many things may happen. The Panama business has gone the President's way, but things do not look good in the Orient. There some very firm and steady work will be needed and it will be easy to criticise.

Then the men of the South may assert themselves and no longer consent to play second to the dictation of Northern Democrats.

But at this writing the President has the best show for the Republican nomination and W. R. Hearst for the Democratic nomination. Conventions at times, like drowning men, grasp at straws. To insure a Democratic triumph in No-

vember, some important Northern States must be added to the solid South. To carry such states, the corruptible vote must be enlisted. That can only be done by purchase and Mr. Hearst has money. Who else has? Of course the New York money syndicates would get behind Mr. Cleveland, but then what would be done by the Bryan-Hearst great contingent?

The situation is interesting; it will grow in interest up to the time of the nominations. When one thinks of the average National convention he wonders that they perform as good work as they do, for half the time a National convention is but pandemonium. Think of ten thousand men springing to their feet and yelling like so many catamounts for fifteen minutes at a stretch. Then think of calling such an assemblage "a deliberative body."

This year there should be vast care in preparing the platforms. Both parties ought to rise to a higher plane than has been approached in forty years in National convention. The Republican convention will be held first and from their platform everything petty and small should be eliminated. The delegates should realize that whether we would have it so or not, our nation has become a mighty world power and the expression of a great party representing half the people should be such as would be an evidence of our nation's greatness and the justice which guides its methods and intentions. Across the sea this year's platforms will be more closely scanned than ever before and they should be worthy the parties that frame them.

The Democratic platform this year should mark a new departure. The party should turn from the regrets that clouded Calhoun's last days and go back to the hopes that filled the heart of Jefferson and gather inspiration from them.

For forty years that party's platforms have been little more than an indictment of their opponents. To promise to undo what others have done does not constitute a catching appeal to the people. A negative policy does not commend itself to Americans. A platform should be aggressive stating a party's beliefs and promising aggressive performance. A wall over something that every member of the party would engage in if he had a chance will not count. Simulated sympathy for cut-throats which no one cares about does not count. The platform should state what the party wants and what it will do if given the chance.

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS.

We read, nowadays, a great deal about the friendship which one nation bears to another, but to the thoughtful reader the conclusion is almost irresistible that the deepest international friendships are governed by commercial interests, or, in some cases, the love professed by a power is merely hate of another power which opposes the first.

Much is being told of Russia's friendship for the United States in 1861 when friendships were really valuable to our country, but it should not be forgotten that France and Great Britain had entered into an agreement to act as one toward the United States, and France was urging Great Britain to interpose with her in favor of the Con-